

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0021] beginning at page 4, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0021] FIG. 8 is a side elevational view of the second brace member of FIG. 6 7 with the mounting surface shown in an installed position;--

Please replace paragraph [0022] beginning at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0022] FIG. 9 is a top plan view of a flat blank used to construct the second brace member of FIG. 6 7;--

Please replace paragraph [0027] beginning at page 5, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0027] As seen in FIGS. 1 – 13, the brace assembly 11 in accordance with the present invention supports an outlet box 13. A brace member 21 is adapted to be installed between first and second support members 15 and 17. The brace member 21 has a base 23. A first mounting surface 51 extends from the base 21 at a first end of the brace member 21. The first mounting surface 51 forms a first angle  $\alpha$  greater than 90 degrees with the base 23.--

Please replace paragraph [0028] beginning at page 5, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0028] The brace member 21 is adapted to be installed between first and second support members 15 and 17, as shown in FIGS. 1 - 2 and 10 - 13. Preferably, the brace member 21 has a first, or inner, brace member ~~31~~ 41 and a second, or outer, brace member ~~41~~ 31. The ~~first~~ second brace member 31 is slidably received by the ~~second~~ first brace member 41, as shown in FIGS. 1 - 2 and 10 – 13, to provide an adjustable brace assembly 11. The

first brace member ~~31~~ 41 is movable relative to the second brace member ~~41~~ 31 so that the brace assembly 11 may be adjusted to fit between first and second supports 15 and 17 of various widths.--

Please replace paragraph [0030] beginning at page 5, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0030] Second brace member 31, FIGS. 7 – 9, has a base 33 and first and second ends 32 and 34, respectively. Side walls 35 and 36 extend downwardly substantially perpendicularly from the base 33 of the second brace member 31. The side walls 35 and 36 extend along the length of the first brace member from the first end 32 to the second end 34. Lips 37 and 38 extend inwardly substantially perpendicularly from each of the side walls 35 and 36, as shown in FIG. 7. Preferably, the ~~first~~ second brace member 31 is made from a flat sheet of metal 39, such as galvanized steel, as shown in FIG. 9. The first end 42 of the first brace member 41 receives the first end 32 of the second brace member 31 so that an outer surface 72 of the second brace member is proximal the inner surface 73 of the first brace member.--

Please replace paragraph [0041] beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0041] Once the first and second brace members 41 and 31 have been expanded so that the first and second mounting surfaces 61 and 51 contact the first and second supports 15 and 17, the brace member 21 is raised up until the first and second flanges 81 and 83 contact the first and second supports 15 and 17, respectively, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 12. When the first and second mounting surfaces 61 and 51 contact the first and second supports 15 and 17, the mounting surfaces are pivoted inwardly. The angle  $\alpha$   $\alpha$  between the mounting surfaces and their respective bases 43 and 33 is decreased, thereby creating a compression fit between the brace member 21 and the first and second supports 15 and 17. The mounting surfaces 61 and 51 being forced inwardly creates a compression fit between the brace member 21 and the supports 15 and 17, so that the installer may release the brace member without the brace

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member falling. Additionally, prongs 67 and 57 dig into the supports 15 and 17 to further facilitate retention of the brace member 21 between the supports without requiring the installer to use a hand to hold the brace member in place. To accommodate various wall thicknesses, the first and second mounting surfaces 61 and 51 may have a portion removed at the score lines 60, 69, 50 and 59 (FIG. 10) so that the brace member 21 does not sit as high with respect to the supports to accommodate various wall thicknesses.--